



OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

District of Columbia Office of the Student Advocate supports students, parents, and families in their advocacy through parent education, one-on-one coaching, resource supports, and trainings in order to amplify the voices of families and communities in processes and decision-making; to provide avenues for access to resources and understanding systems; and to support power families and communities already possess.

A Roadmap to Understanding & Navigating the DC Public Education Landscape



202-741-4692



student.advocate@dc.gov

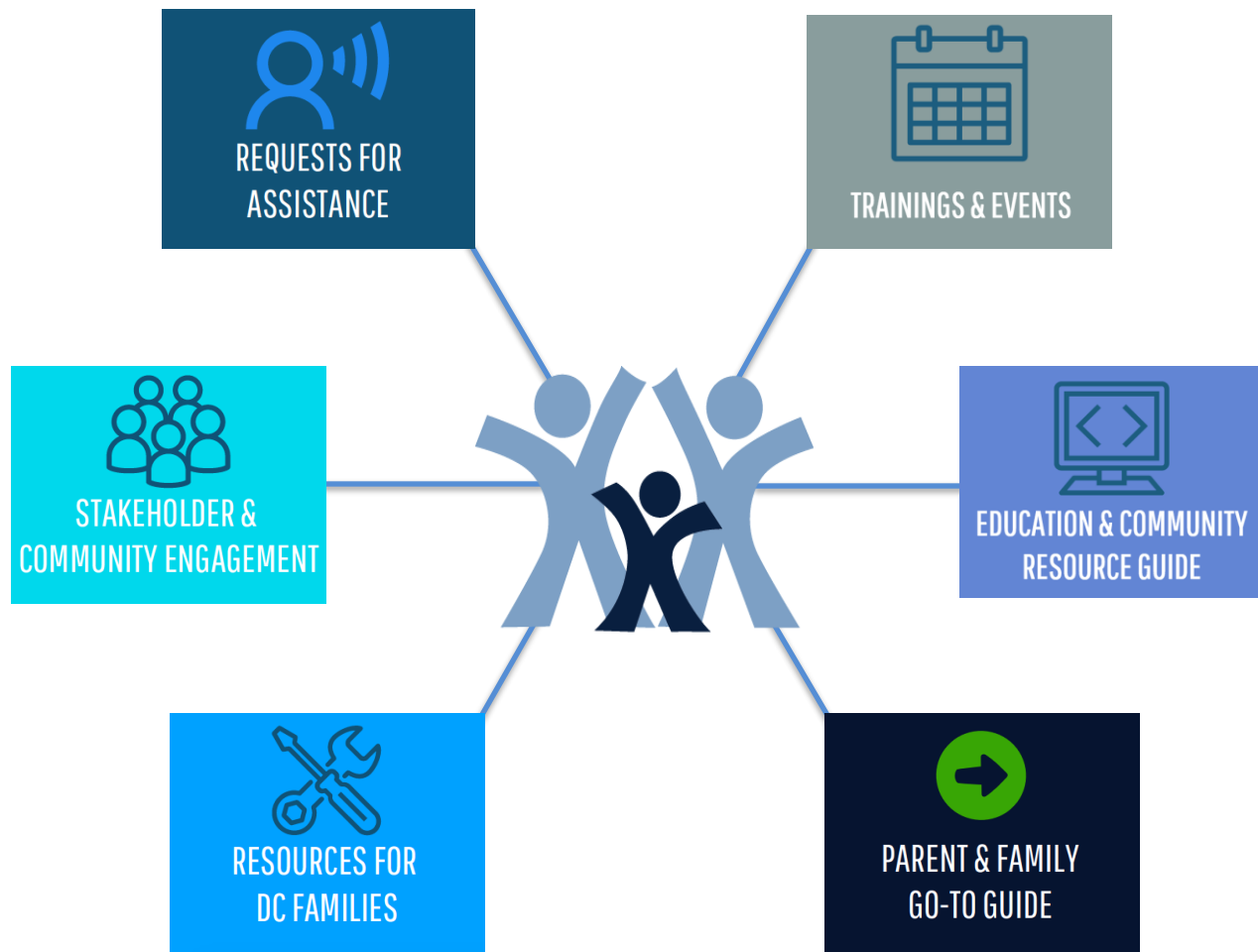


<http://studentadvocate.dc.gov>



@DC_Advocate

What We Do



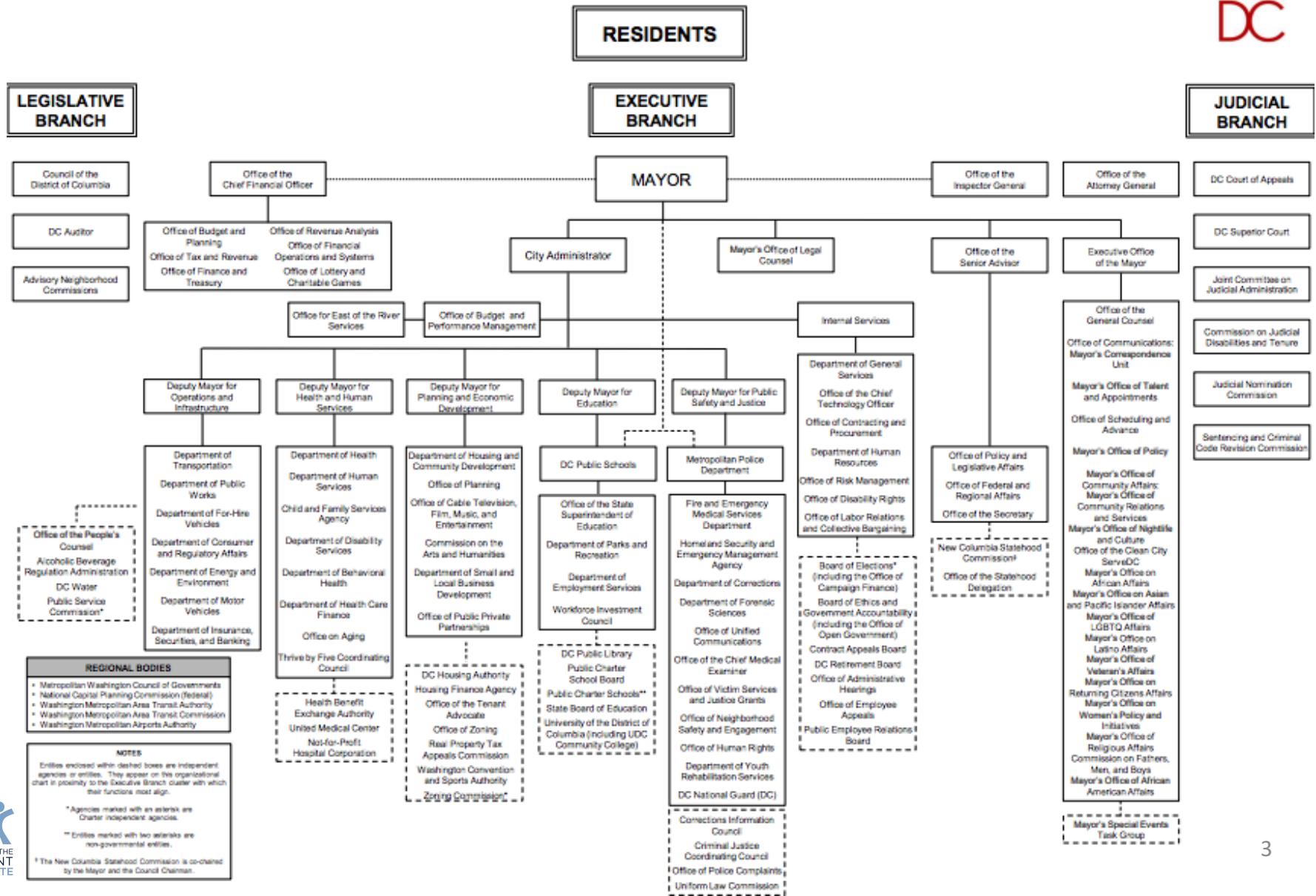
We work in partnership to equalize the balance of power between families and schools by increasing family voice, access, and power in our system of public education. We achieve this goal by ensuring families are connected to resources and supports, informed of their rights, and understand how the system works.

For more information about our office or to access our online resources, visit studentadvocate.dc.gov or call us at 202.741.4692

The broader context is confusing...



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



While the structure of the city is complex, the choices individual parents make for their child's educational journey is impacted by the structure.

So...

*Understanding how government works is vital.
Making the system work for you and
understanding how to engage with each of the
key players is essential.*

Purpose of this Presentation:

To make the process of public education and government less
mysterious



Government

YOU
ARE
HERE

Goal for the Presentation:

To create a roadmap for advocacy

Question:

In this broader context, where do you see yourself?

Do you understand how public education fits into this equation?

Let's take a step back...
In DC, we have mayoral control of schools.

But...the Mayor's control over public schools is not equal...



Mayor Muriel Bowser

§ 38–172. Mayor's authority; rulemaking.

(a) The Mayor shall govern the public schools in the District of Columbia.

The Mayor shall have authority over all curricula, operations, functions, budget, personnel, labor negotiations and collective bargaining agreements, facilities, and other education-related matters, but shall endeavor to keep teachers in place after the start of the school year and transfer teachers, if necessary, during summer break.

(b) The Mayor may delegate any of his authority to a designee as he or she determines is warranted for efficient and sound administration and to further the purpose of DCPS to educate all students enrolled within its schools or learning centers consistent with District-wide standards of academic achievement.

Source: § 38–172, Code of the District of Columbia, <https://beta.code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/sections/38-172.html>

Essentially, the Mayor has control over DC
Public Schools.

Mayoral Control of Public Schools:

"School districts are traditionally controlled by a locally elected school board, which makes decisions about how schools are run, including hiring and firing the...[Chancellor of DCPS]. Mayoral control, however, is a shift in the power structure wherein mayors are given a greater degree of authority over schools."

Source: Top 5 Things to Know About Mayoral Control of Schools, Center for American Progress,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/news/2013/03/22/57723/top-5-things-to-know-about-mayoral-control-of-schools/>

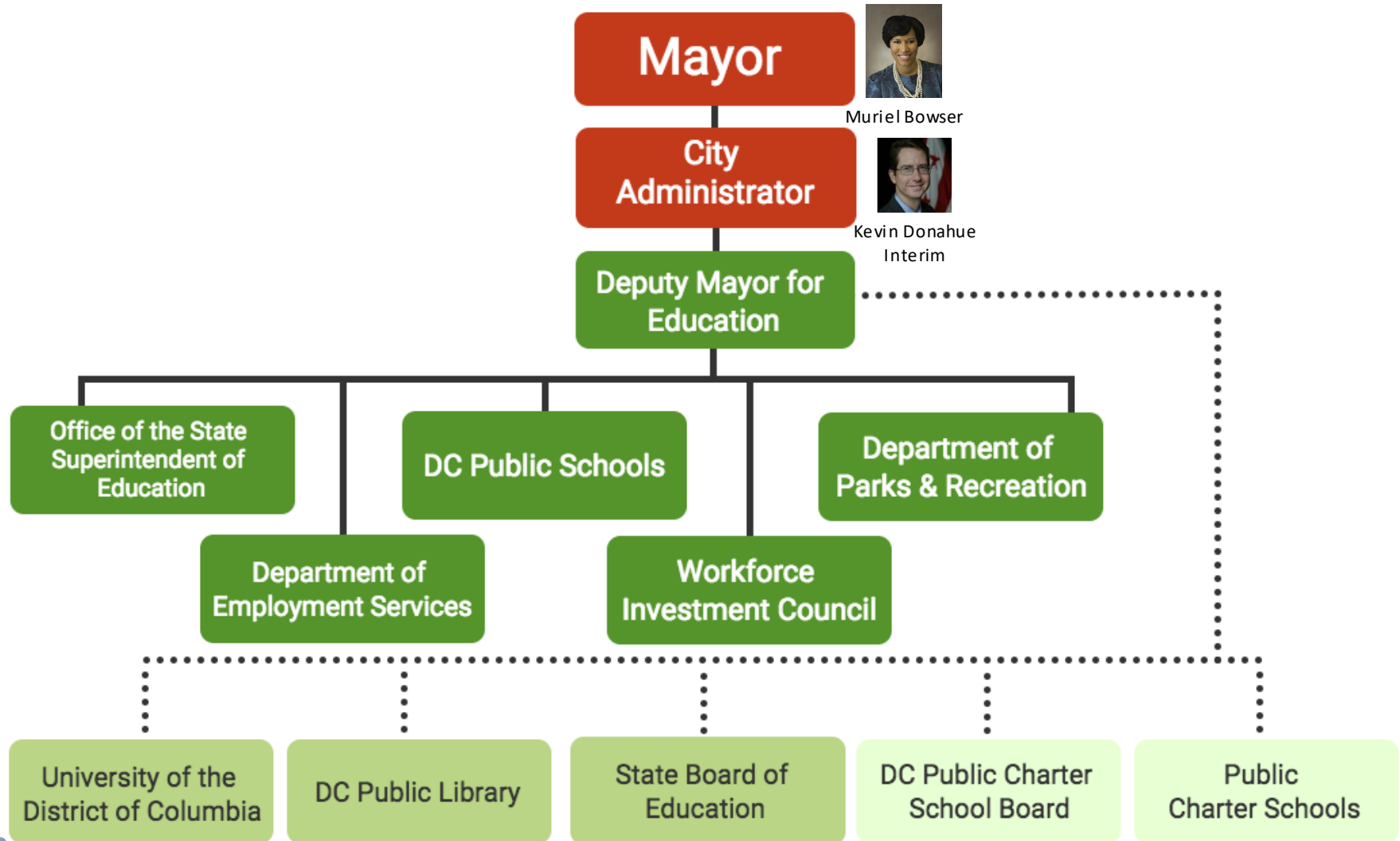
TABLE 1

Complete and mixed models of mayoral governance: Selected city examples in 2013

District	Mayor appoints majority of board?	Mayor appoints all of board?	Mayor has full appointive power?
Complete governance			
Boston	Yes	Yes	No – nominating process
Chicago	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleveland	Yes	Yes	No – nominating process
Hartford	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Haven	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Yes	No	Yes
Providence	Yes	Yes	No – nominating process and city council approval
Washington, D.C.	Full mayoral authority		
Mixed models			
Baltimore	Joint appointment with governor		
Philadelphia	Joint appointment with governor		



Breakdown: The Public Education Governance Structure



The Mayor's Education Designee: Who is the Deputy Mayor for Education?



Deputy Mayor
Paul Kihn

Deputy Mayor for Education is the Mayor's designee responsible for developing and implementing the Mayor's vision for academic excellence and creating a high quality education continuum from birth to 24 (from early childhood to K-12 to post-secondary and the workforce).

§ 38–191. Department of Education; establishment; authority

“...responsible for the planning, coordination, and supervision of all public education and education-related activities under its jurisdiction, including development and support of programs to improve the delivery of educational services and opportunities, from early childhood to the post-secondary education level, including the District of Columbia Public Schools, public charter schools...”

"Promote, coordinate, and oversee collaborative efforts among District government agencies to support education and child development as it relates to education, including coordinating the integration of programs and resources..."

Source: § 38–191. Code of the District of Columbia, <https://beta.code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/titles/38/chapters/1B/>

Adding more clarity: What parents know...

Schools:

Roles Within the Building

Roles/Responsibilities of Teachers:

- planning/preparing lessons
- managing classroom behaviors
- assessing/evaluating student learning
- identifying difficulties and learning problems



Roles/Responsibilities of School Administrators:

- shaping a vision of academic success for all students
- creating a climate hospitable to education
- cultivating leadership in others
- managing people, data, and processes
- improving school leadership

But...

parents & families have questions
about the unique complexities of our
system...

What's the Difference: DCPS v. Public Charter Schools

DC Public Schools?

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) is the traditional system of public schools in the District. DCPS is a system of neighborhood, matter-of-right schools, with some selective school options, and is required to serve all students in DC.

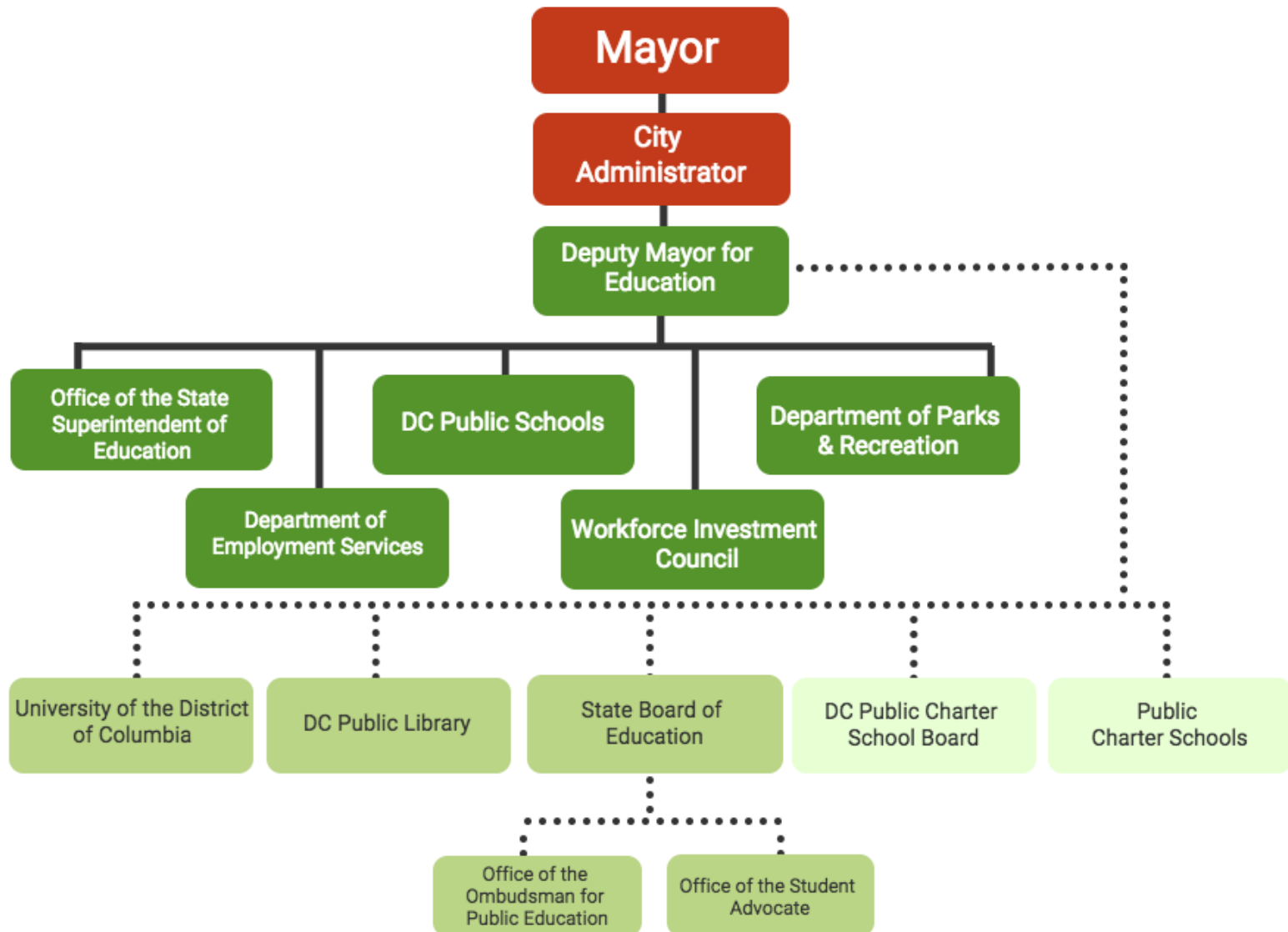
As a DC government agency, DCPS is under direct mayoral control and is subject to DC Council performance and budget oversight.

Public Charter Schools?

Charter schools are independent public schools that are free to innovate and are held accountable for student performance. They are publicly funded, tuition-free, and nonsectarian. Like traditional public schools, they are open to all DC residents and receive public funds according to how many students are enrolled.

A public charter school exercises exclusive control over its expenditures, administration, personnel, and instructional methods. While the DC Public Charter School Board, an independent DC government agency, is subject to some mayoral and DC Council oversight, the exclusive control individual charter LEAs have means they are not under the direct control, or oversight, of the mayor or the DC Council.

The Deeper Context: How It All Connects



What are Local Education Agencies (LEAs)?

"...a public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state, or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a state as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools."

Source: Definitions, U.S. Department of Education. <https://www.ed.gov/race-top/district-competition/definitions>

DC Public Schools (DCPS)
&
individual public charter networks are
(i.e. Kipp, Friendship, or DC Prep)
local education agencies **or** school districts.

What It All Means...

We essentially have 65 plus school districts in the District of Columbia. And... each of the school districts, or LEAs, has their own policies and procedures.



DCPS has policies and procedures which are subject to our city regulations, code, and significant governmental oversight.

Public Charter Schools have the autonomy to create their own policies, with some considerations from DC Public Charter School Board or OSSE guidance.

A few examples...

Local Education Agency Leadership Roles

Using the DCPS Structure as an Example

Roles/Responsibilities of the Chancellor

- central authority of DCPS, the traditional public school system in the district
- delegates authority of education programs the Deputy Chancellor for Social Emotional Academic Development and the Chief of Elementary Schools and Chief of Secondary Schools

Roles/Responsibilities of the Chiefs of Schools

- both the Chief of Elementary Schools and the Chief of Secondary Schools delegate oversight of individual schools to Instructional Superintendents

Roles of Instructional Superintendents

- manages clusters of individual schools

DCPS Senior Leadership Team



Lewis D. Ferebee
Chancellor



Amy Maisterra
Deputy
Chancellor



Scott Barash
General
Counsel



Charon P.W.
Hines
Senior Advisor



Aiyana
Mourtos
Chief of Staff



Jeffrey Holmes
Chief,
Elementary
Schools



Melissa Kim
Deputy
Chancellor



Corie Colgan
Chief, Teaching
and Learning



Colin Taylor
Chief, Data
Systems and
Strategy



Art Fields
Chief Integrity
Officer



Patrick Davis
Chief,
Operations



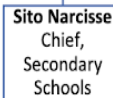
Sharon Gaskins
Resource
Strategy Officer



Shanita Burney
Communications
and Engagement
Officer



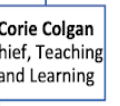
Bren Elliott
Chief, School
Improvement
and Supports



Sito Narcisse
Chief,
Secondary
Schools



Andria Caruthers, IS Cluster VII
Drewana Bey, IS Cluster VIII
David Pinder, IS Cluster IX
Jerry Jellig, IS Cluster X



Kerri Larkin
Senior Deputy
Chief,
Specialized
Instruction

Katie Larkin, IS Cluster I
Mary Ann Stinson, IS Cluster II
Elizabeth Namba, IS Cluster III
Shawn Stover, IS Cluster IV
Eric Bethel, IS Cluster V
Kim Jackson, IS Cluster VI

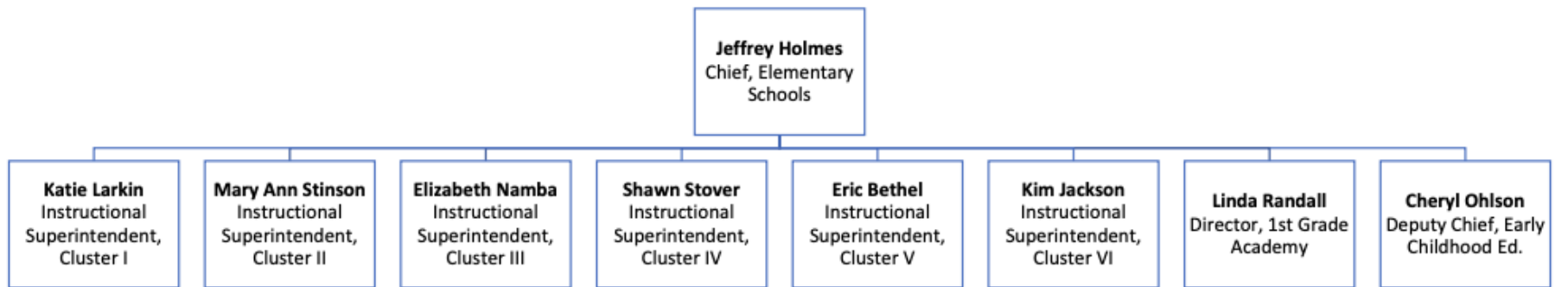
Deitra Bryant-Mallory
Senior Deputy
Chief, Student
Supports



Local Education Agency Leadership Roles

Using the DCPS Structure as an Example

DCPS Office of Elementary Schools



Instructional Superintendents supervise clusters of 10-14 principals. Instructional Superintendents provide principals with feedback, coaching, guidance, and support necessary for them to be effective school leaders—with a particular focus on instructional leadership. They help principals develop their staff's capacity to reach student achievement goals, and build positive relationships with their communities, while ensuring their schools are well-run, nurturing places of learning.

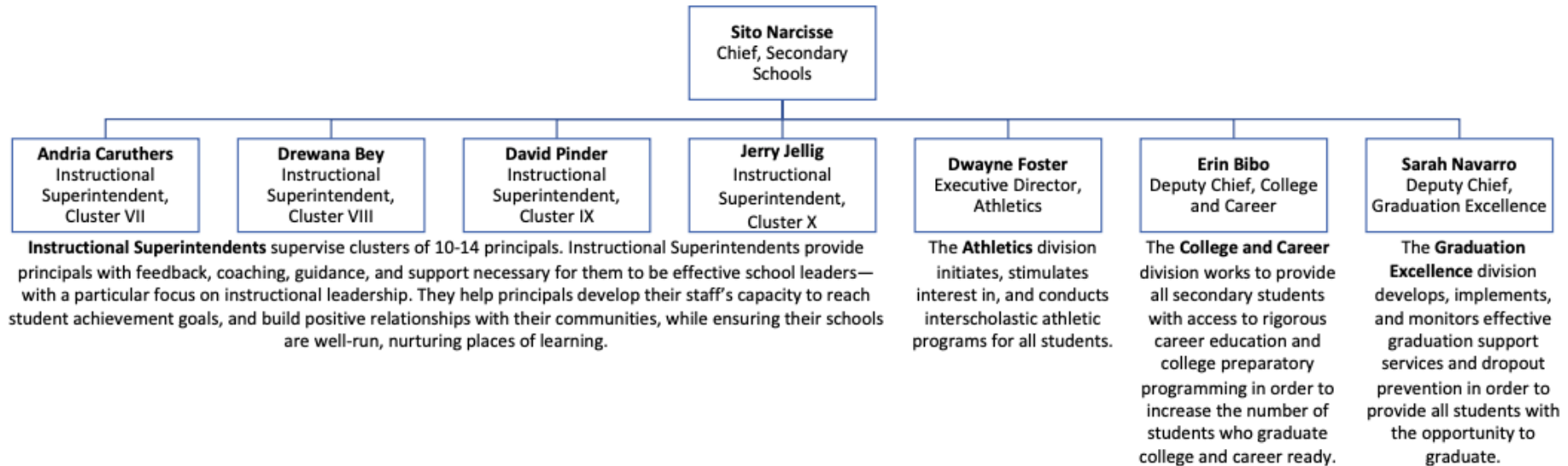
1st Grade Academy works to reduce the achievement gap through accelerated student learning, leadership for Reading Recovery®, supports for 1st grade programming, and implementation of sound instructional practices in classrooms. It also serves as a resource for PreK preparation.

The **Early Childhood Education** division supports schools and families in providing PreK students with comprehensive learning experiences that foster confidence and independence. The division also manages the implementation of DCPS' Head Start grant.

Local Education Agency Leadership Roles

Using the DCPS Structure as an Example

DCPS Office of Secondary Schools



Local Education Agency Leadership Roles

Public Charter School Networks



Public Charter School Networks has a different LEA structure and leadership roles. More about the organizational structures for each public charter LEA can be found on their individual website or on the DC Public Charter School Board's website
(<http://www.dcpsb.org/find-a-school>)

The Role of DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB)

PCSB authorizes public charter schools in DC. After the comprehensive application process and approval of a public charter school's charter, PCSB provides oversight and support to the schools it authorizes.



The DC Public Charter School Board is governed by a seven-member Board, nominated by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the DC Council. The volunteer Board approves new schools, provides oversight to schools while in operation, and revokes a school's charter if they fail to meet their performance goals.

The members of the Board delegates its power to run the daily functions of PCSB to the Executive Director, Dr. Michelle J. Walker-Davis.





Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

OSSE is the state education agency for the District of Columbia. OSSE sets statewide policies, provides resources and support, and exercises accountability for all public education in DC. Provides information, policy guidance, and resources on education matters to local education agencies (LEAs) and parents.



The Interim State Superintendent of Education, Shana Young, leads the work of the DC state education agency (OSSE).

OSSE's relationship to public schools

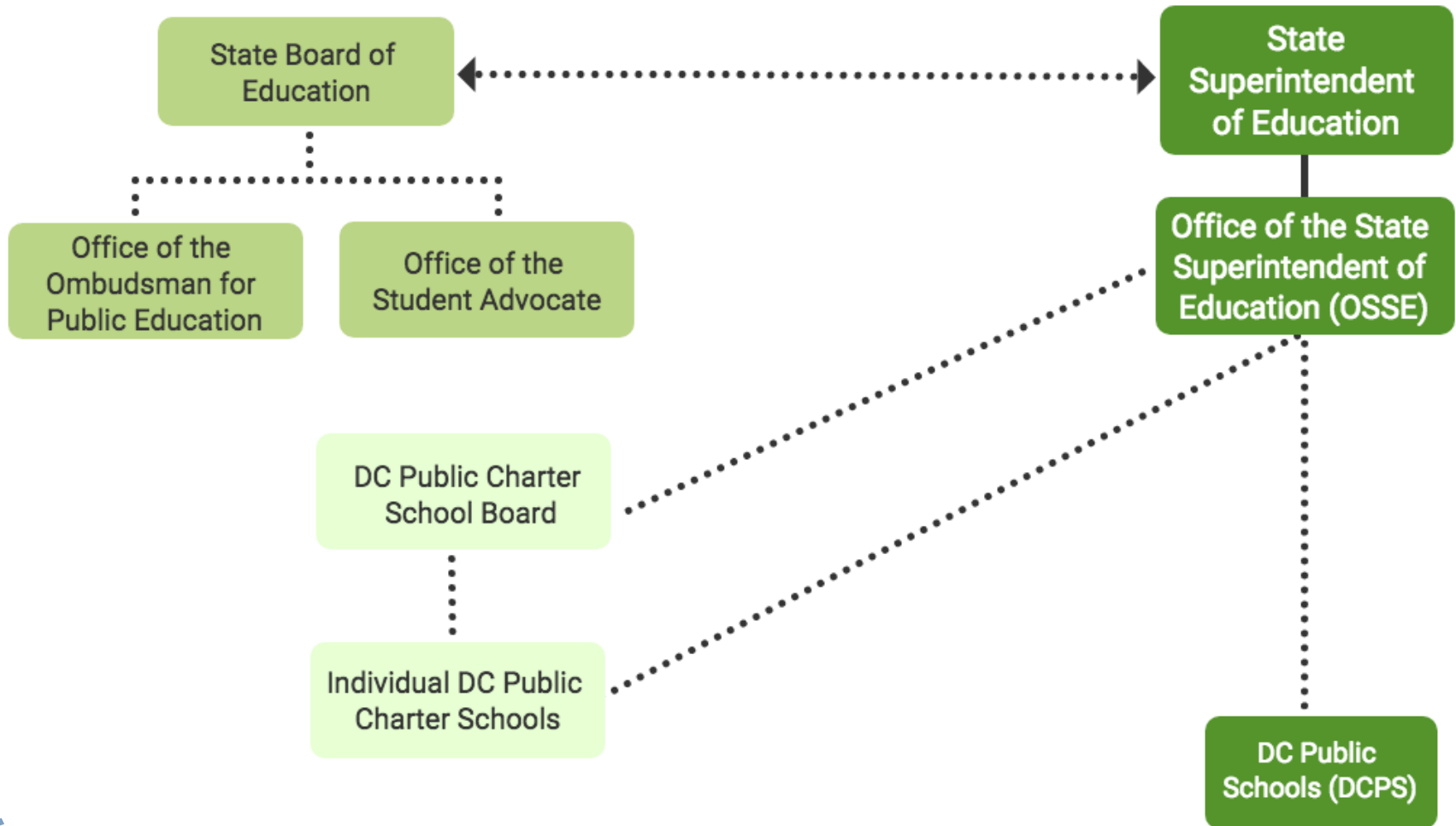
Programs that OSSE supports include:

- **Adult and Family Education**
- **Assessment and Accountability**
- **Credit Flexibility – Waiver to Award Competency-Based Unit(s)**
- **DC ReEngagement Center**
- **Early Learning**
Provides leadership and coordination to ensure that all District of Columbia children, from birth to kindergarten entrance, have access to high quality early childhood development programs and are well prepared for school.
- **Educator Licensure & Accreditation**
- **Elementary & Secondary Education**
- **Grants Management and Compliance**
- **Higher Education Licensure Commission**
- **Wellness and Nutrition Services**
- **Postsecondary Education**
(includes: DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG) and DC Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (DCLEAP)).
- **Public Charter School Financing & Support**
Manages several federally funded programs for public charter school facility financing.
- **Race to the Top**
- **Special Education Transportation (DOT)**
- **Specialized Education**
Provides the public with access to information about special education related services, approved placements and direct on line connections to helpful documents.
- **Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLED)**
The Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLED) is a single, comprehensive repository of student and education-related data needed to improve education planning, management, reporting, instruction and evaluation.
- **Office of Dispute Resolution**

Deeper Context:

The Relationship Between SBOE & OSSE

OSSE's Relationship to Schools





The DC State Board of Education: Meet the Members of the Board





The State Board of Education is responsible for advising the State Superintendent of Education on educational matters, including: state standards; state policies, including those governing special, academic, vocational, charter and other schools; state objectives; and state regulations proposed by the Mayor or the State Superintendent of Education.

The Council of the District of Columbia

As the central and chief policy-making body for the District of Columbia, the Council's mission is to provide strong, innovative and effective leadership for the benefit of residents across the city. The Council's central role as a legislative body is to make laws and is responsible for the oversight of multiple agencies, commissions, boards and other instruments of District government. The Council also plays a critical role in maintaining a balanced budget and the fiscal health of the District of Columbia government.

Source: About the Council of the District of Columbia, <http://dccouncil.us/pages/about-the-council>



The John A. Wilson Building - the District Government Building

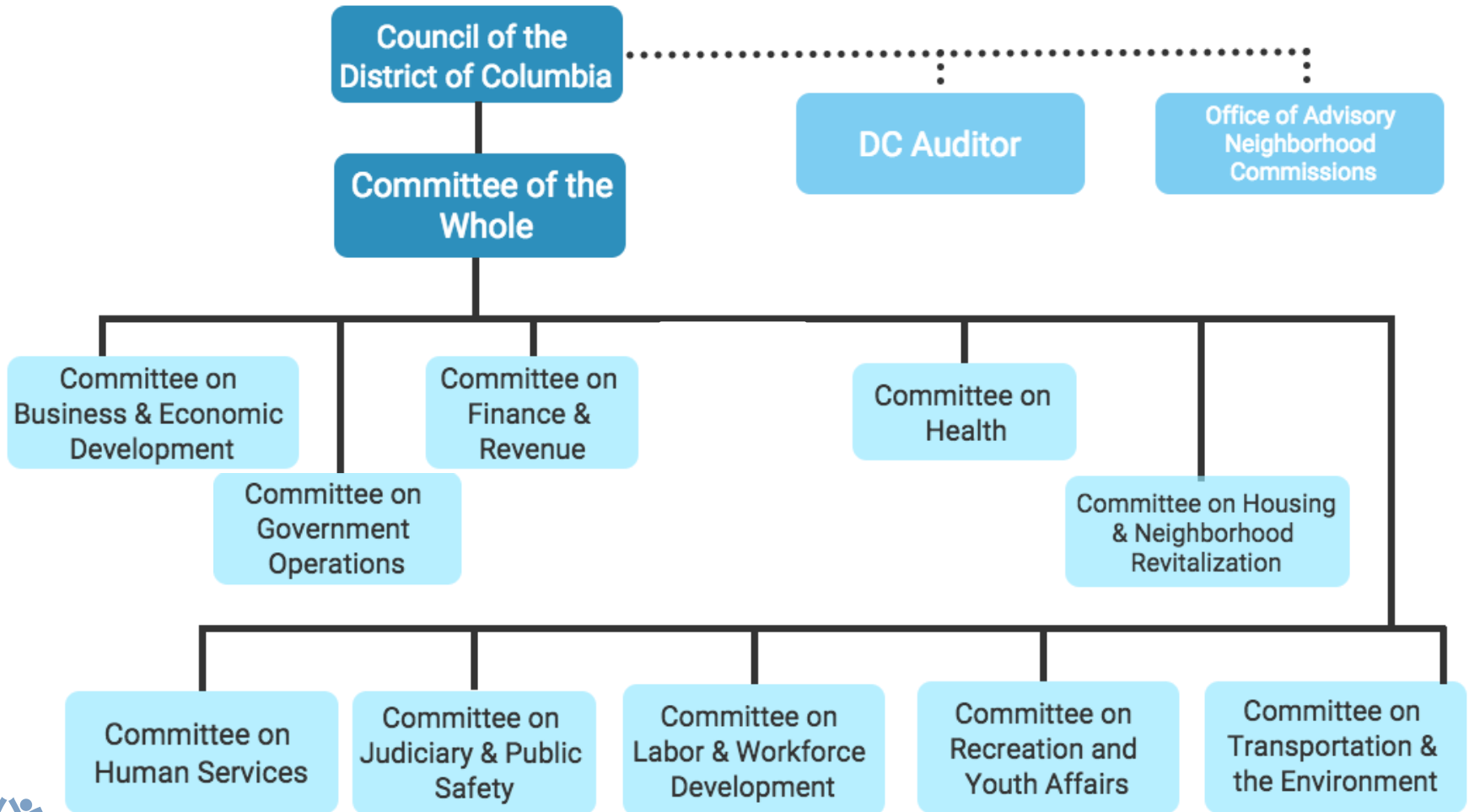
The Council of the District of Columbia: Meet the Members of the Council

The Council of the District of Columbia, which is led by the Council Chairman, has 13 members.

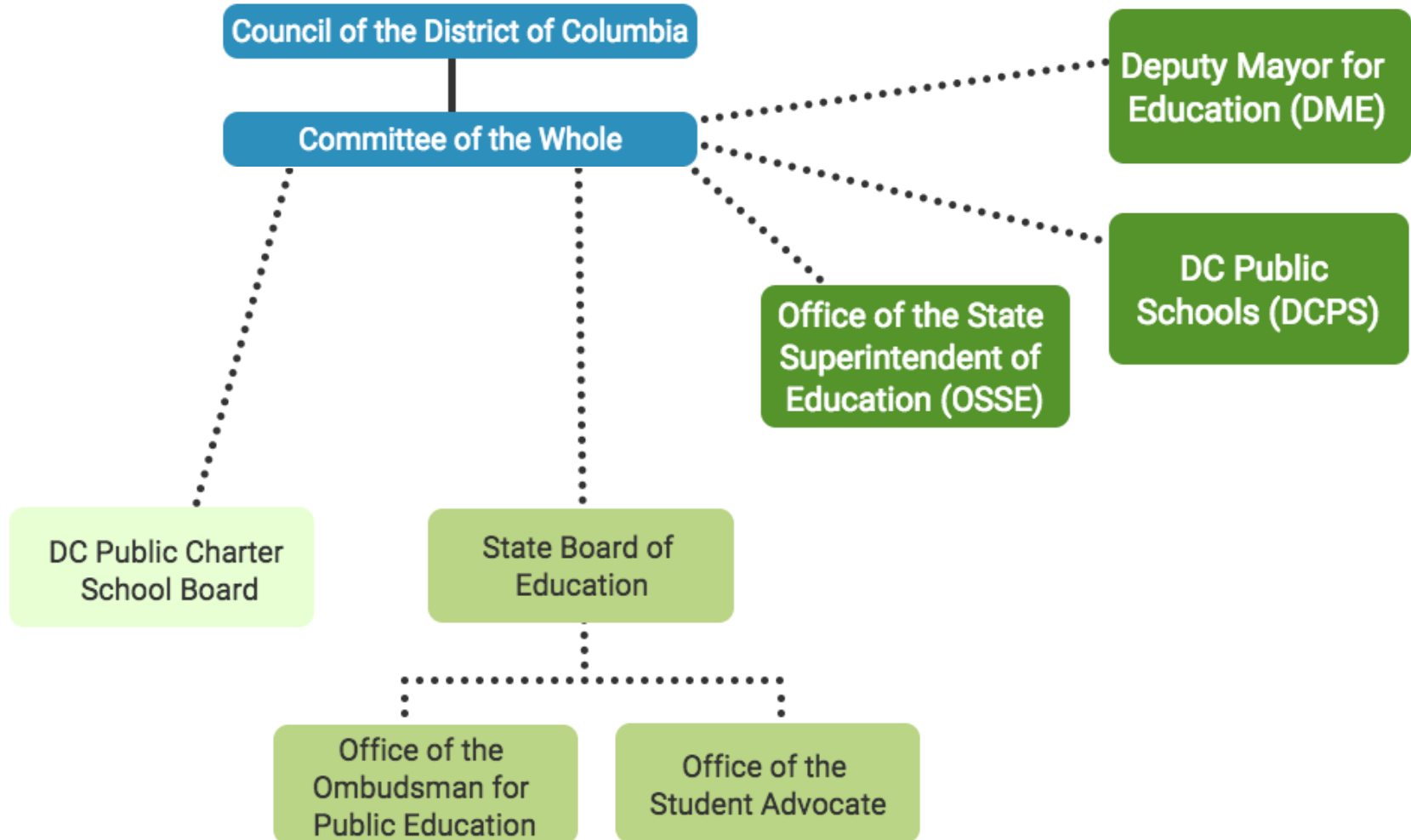


The Council of the District of Columbia: How it Works

Council committees review the performance of government programs and agencies to ensure they are serving their established purposes and operating under pertinent regulations and budget targets. The Committee on Education is specific to education, but other committees (and the agencies and offices they oversee) have a connection to education as well.



DC Council's Public Education Oversight

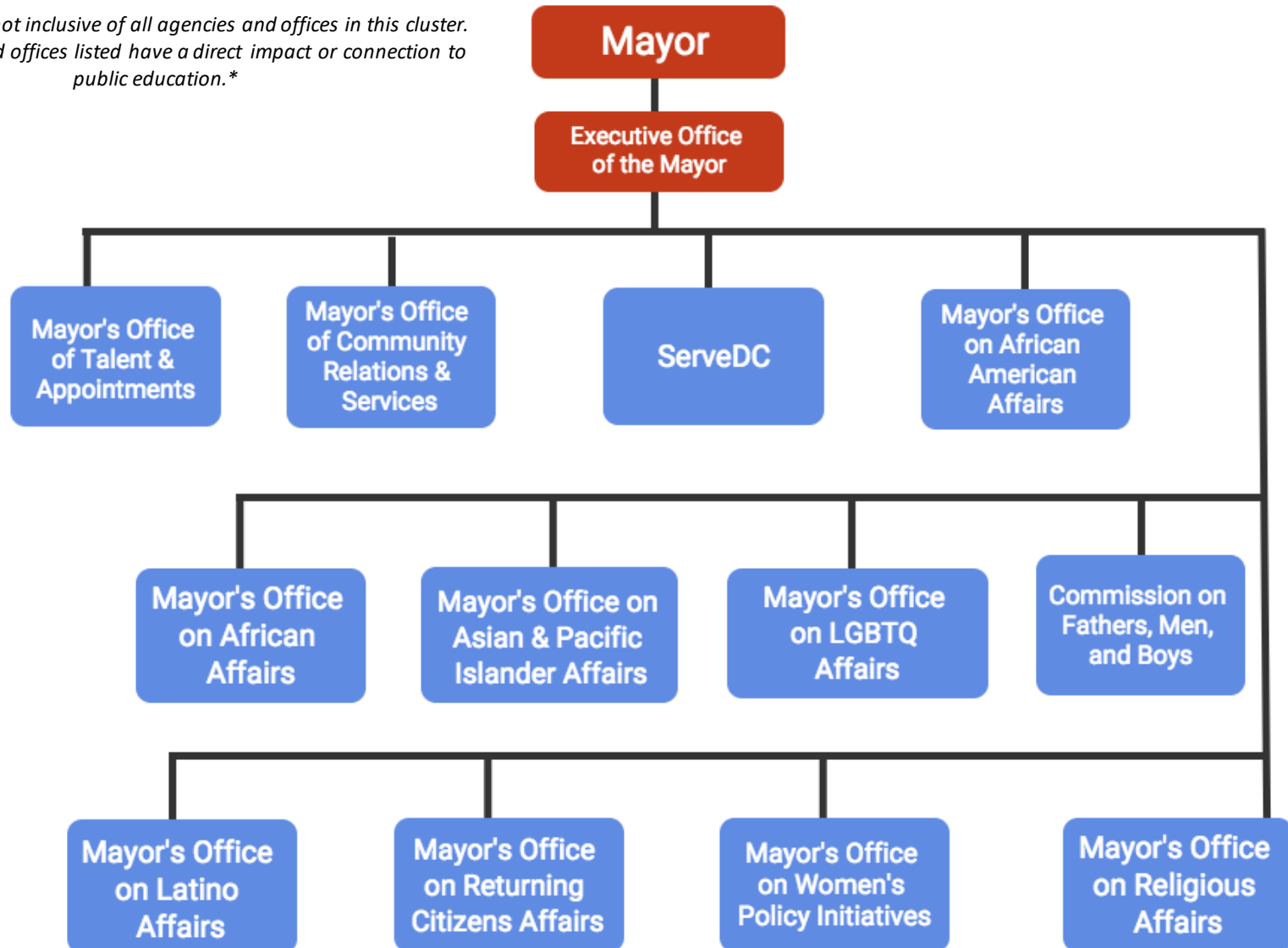


Areas of Government & The Impact on Public Education



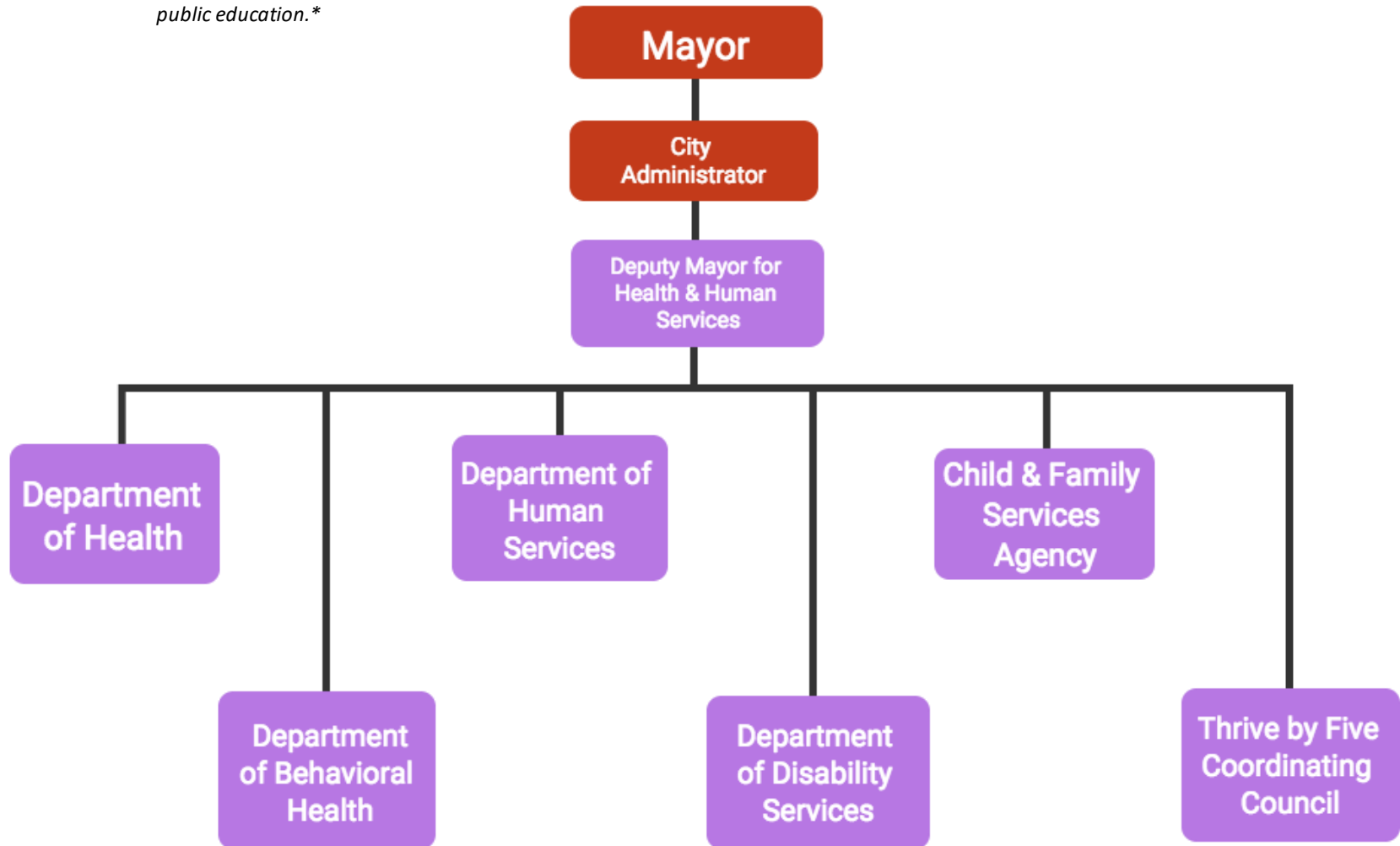
Executive Office of the Mayor Connection to Public Education

This graphic is not inclusive of all agencies and offices in this cluster. The agencies and offices listed have a direct impact or connection to public education.



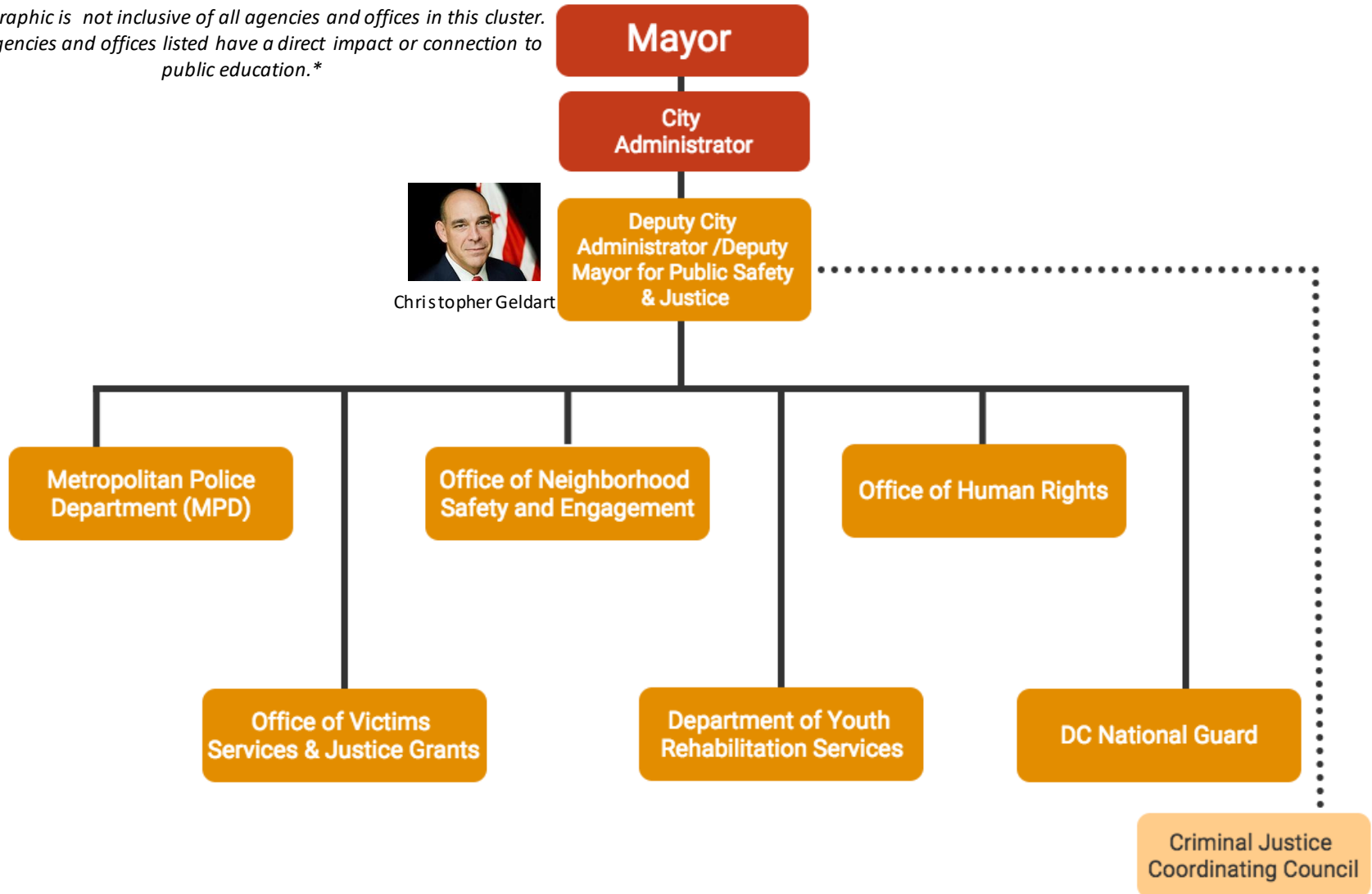
Health & Human Services Connection to Public Education

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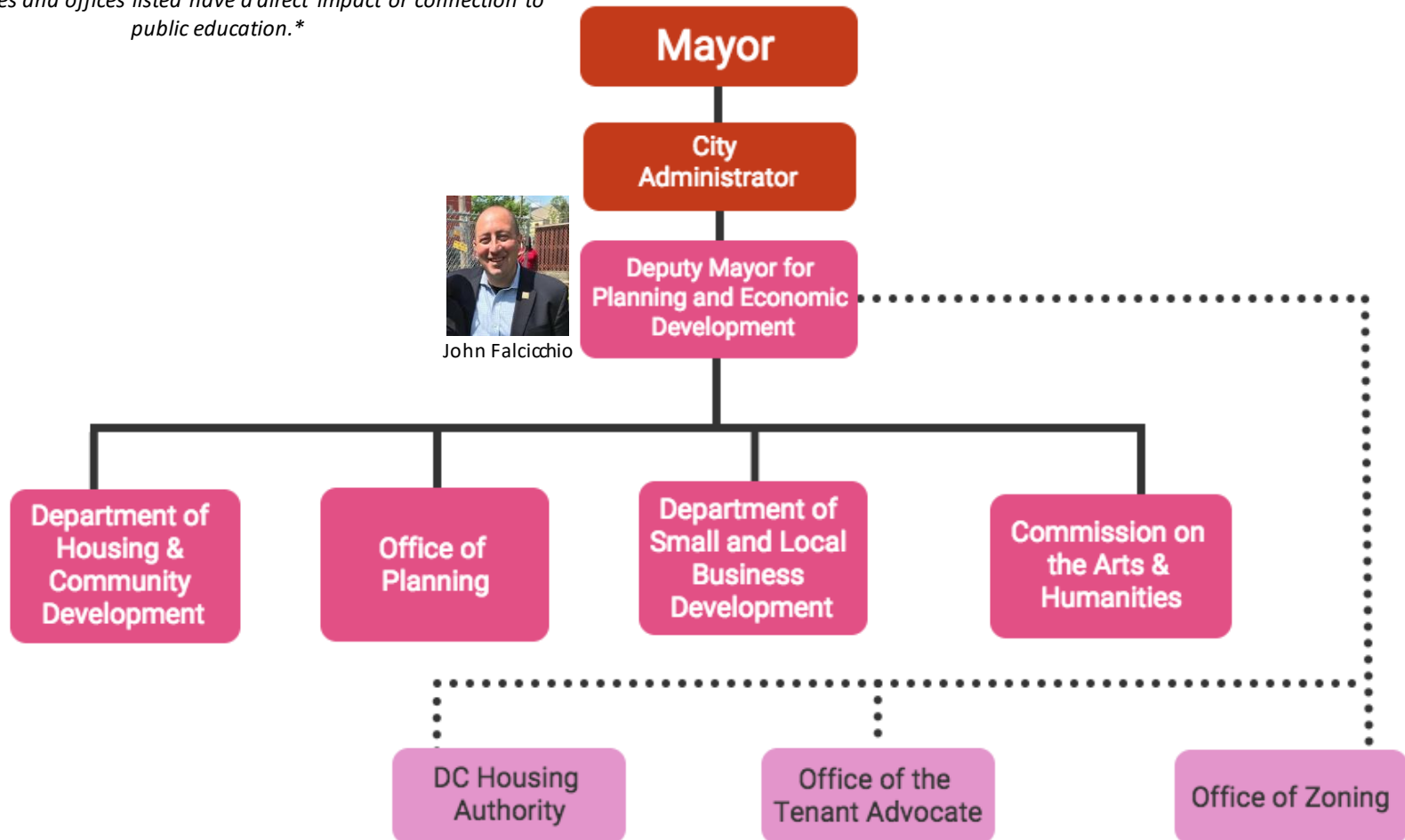
Public Safety & Justice Connection to Public Education

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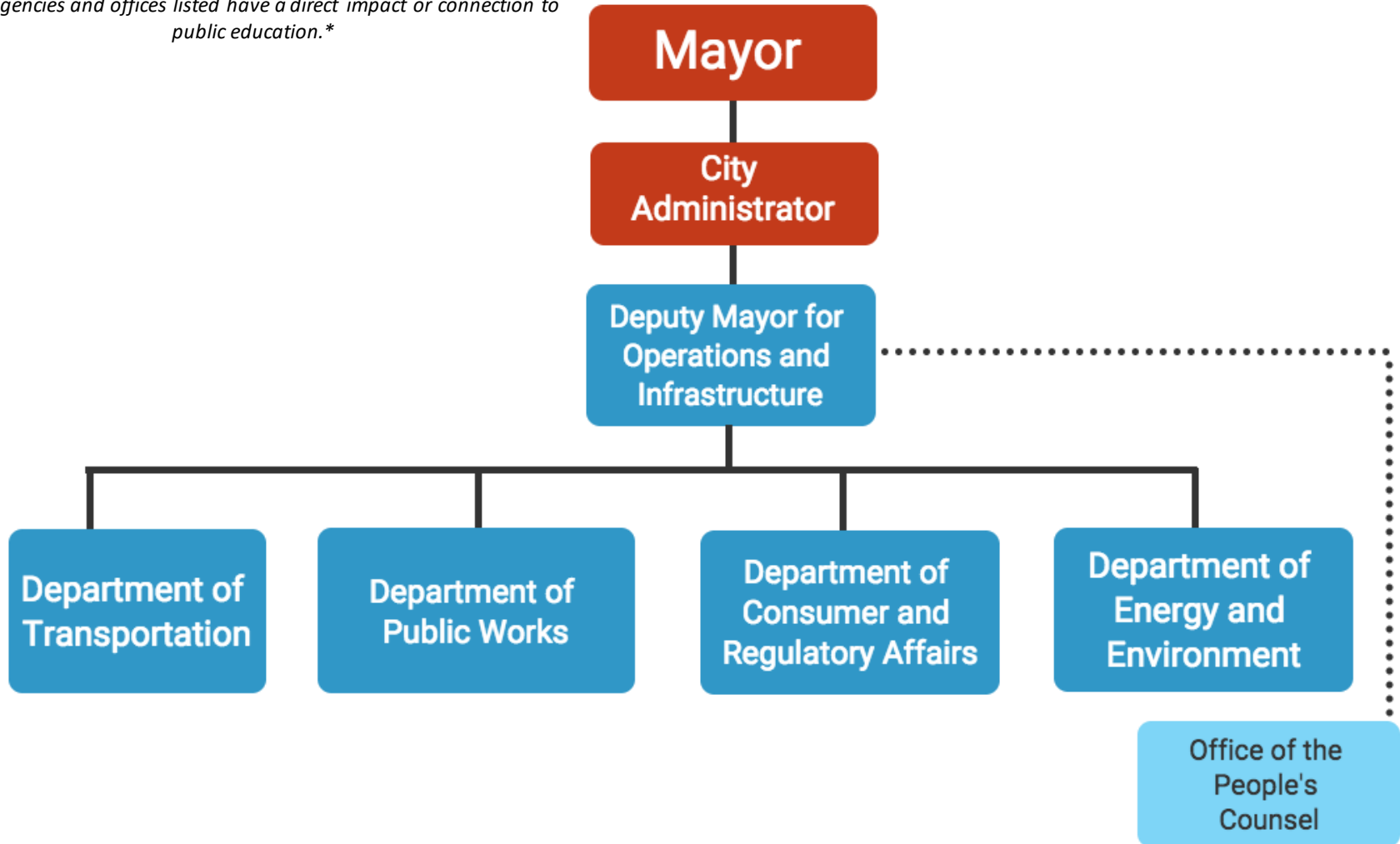
Housing & Economic Development Connection to Public Education

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The agencies and offices listed have a direct impact or connection to
public education.**



Operation and Infrastructure's Connection to Public Education

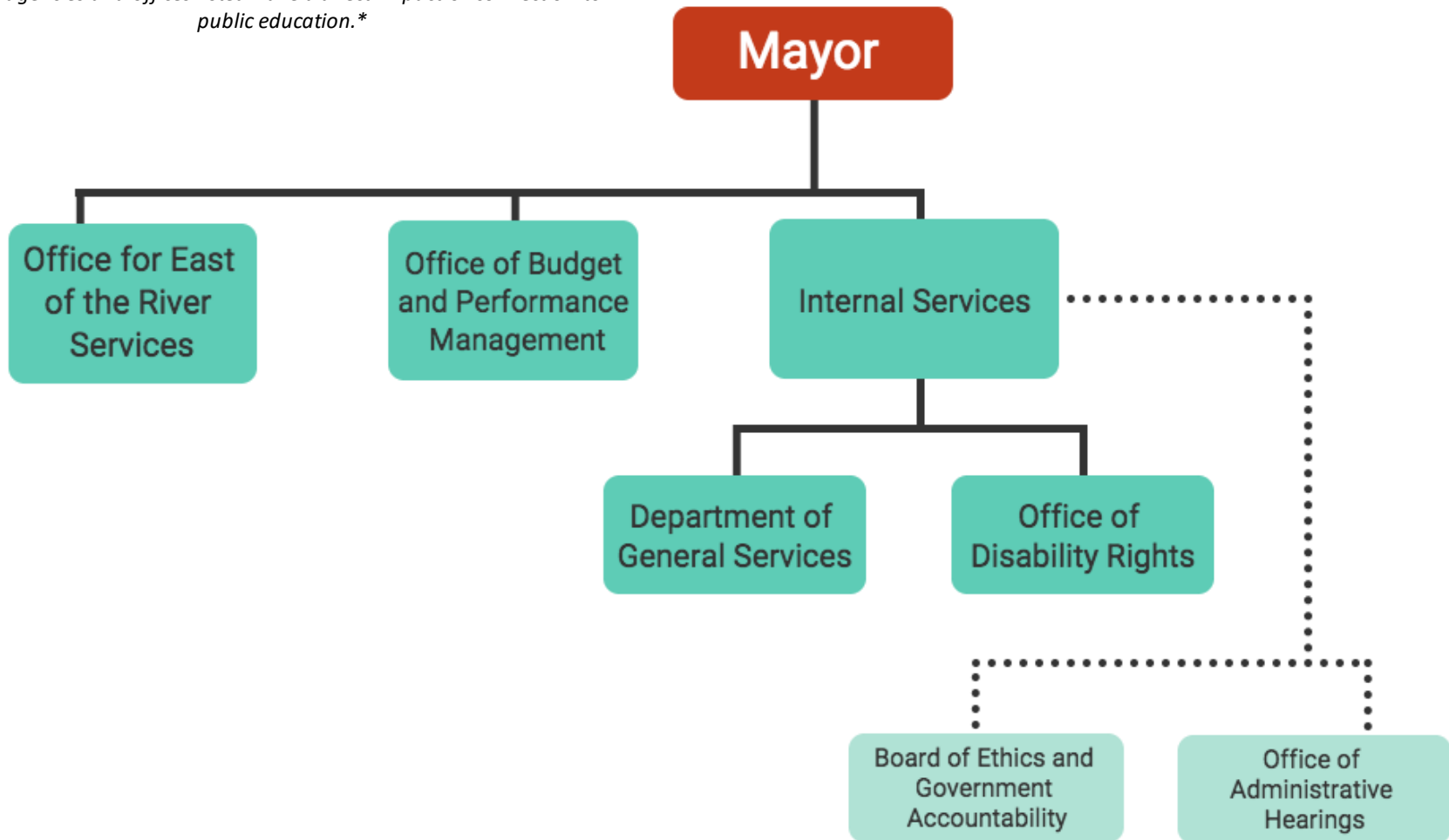
This graphic is not inclusive of all agencies and offices in this cluster. The agencies and offices listed have a direct impact or connection to public education.



Internal Services'

Connection to Public Education

**This graphic is not inclusive of all agencies and offices in this cluster.
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Let us help you with
navigating public
schools in the District
of Columbia...



Call us at **202.741.4692**
Check out our resources online at
studentadvocate.dc.gov